

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for use in a distribution network to provide public, educational and governmental (PEG) programming, the method comprising:~~  
providing a public, educational and governmental (PEG) channel in a channel lineup for a local area served by a distribution network;  
providing backdrop programming on the PEG channel;  
determining an availability of locally produced PEG programming for the local area; and  
responsive to determining that the locally produced PEG programming for the local area is available and intended for local transmission, unconditionally preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced PEG programming on the PEG channel in the local area;  
providing a video on demand (VOD) platform for a plurality of locally produced PEG programming content items selectable by a user, each of the content items associated with a local area in which the content item was generated;  
receiving a request from a user for a specific content item via the VOD platform; and  
providing the specific content item to the user via the VOD platform only when the user is in the same local area as that in which the specific content item was generated.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via local public access to the distribution network.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via educational access to the distribution network.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via local governmental access to the distribution network.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the distribution network encompasses a plurality of local areas, wherein (PEG) programming is provided on the PEG channel to the local area, and wherein the backdrop programming is provided on PEG channels for multiple local areas.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the distribution network includes a high speed data (HSD) platform, the HSD platform including a library of locally produced PEG programming, the method further comprising:

providing locally produced PEG programming on demand with the HSD platform, wherein the locally produced PEG programming on demand is selectable by the end user; and wherein distribution via the HSD platform of locally produced PEG programming content is restricted to users in the local area in which the locally produced PEG programming was generated.

8. (Previously Presented) A method ~~for use in a distribution network to provide public, educational and governmental (PEG) programming, the method comprising:~~

providing a public, educational and governmental (PEG) channel in the channel lineup for each a plurality of local-area areas served by a distribution network;

providing backdrop programming on each PEG channel;

for each local area having a PEG channel, determining an availability of locally produced PEG programming associated with that local area; and

responsive to determining that the locally produced PEG programming is available and intended for local transmission in a particular local area having the PEG channel, unconditionally preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced PEG programming on the PEG channel in the particular local area;

providing a video on demand (VOD) platform for a plurality of locally produced PEG programming content items selectable by a user, each of the content items associated with a local area in which the content item was generated;

receiving a request from a user for a specific content item via the VOD platform; and  
providing the specific content item to the user via the VOD platform only when the user is in the same local area as that in which the specific content item was generated.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via local public access to the distribution network.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via educational access to the distribution network.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the locally produced PEG programming is created via local governmental access to the distribution network.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the backdrop programming is provided on PEG channels for multiple local areas.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the distribution network includes a high speed data (HSD) platform, the HSD platform including a library of locally produced PEG programming, the method further comprising:

providing locally produced PEG programming on demand with the HSD platform, wherein the locally produced PEG programming is selectable by an end user; and  
wherein distribution via the HSD platform of locally produced PEG programming content is restricted to users in the local area in which the locally produced PEG programming was generated.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for signal distribution in a distribution network comprising:

an interface that is configured to receive backdrop programming from a first source and to receive locally produced content from a second source; ~~and~~

a processing module configured to be connected to the interface and configured to perform:

providing a channel in a channel lineup for a local area;

providing the backdrop programming on the channel from the first source;

determining an availability of the locally produced content from the second source; and

responsive to determining that the locally produced content is available and intended for local transmission, unconditionally preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced content on the channel; and

a video on demand (VOD) module configured to perform:

providing for a plurality of locally produced PEG programming content items selectable by a user, each of the content items associated with a local area in which the content item was generated,

receiving a request from a user for a specific content item via the VOD platform,  
and

providing the specific content item to the user via the VOD platform only when the user is in the same local area as that in which the specific content item was generated.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

the interface is configured to connect to a high speed data (HSD) platform, the HSD platform including a library of locally produced PEG programming; and

the processing module is further configured to perform:

providing the locally produced PEG programming on demand with the HSD platform, the locally produced PEG programming on demand being selectable by an end user, and restricting distribution via the HSD platform of locally produced PEG programming content to users in the same local area in which the locally produced PEG programming was generated.

18. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for use in a distribution network, the method~~ comprising:  
providing a channel in a channel lineup for a local area served by a distribution network;  
providing backdrop programming on the channel;  
determining an availability of locally produced programming; ~~and~~  
responsive to determining that the locally produced programming is available and intended for local transmission, unconditionally preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced programming on the channel; and  
providing a video on demand (VOD) platform for a plurality of locally produced PEG programming content items selectable by a user, each of the content items associated with a local area in which the content item was generated;  
receiving a request from a user for a specific content item via the VOD platform; and  
providing the specific content item to the user via the VOD platform only when the user is in the same local area as that in which the specific content item was generated.

19. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for use in a distribution network, the method~~ comprising:  
providing a channel in the channel lineup for each local area served by a distribution network;  
providing backdrop programming on each channel;  
for each local area having a channel, determining an availability of locally produced programming; ~~and~~  
responsive to determining that the locally produced programming is available and intended for local transmission in a particular local area having the channel, unconditionally

preempting the backdrop programming and providing the locally produced programming on the channel in the particular local area; and

providing a video on demand (VOD) platform for a plurality of locally produced PEG programming content items selectable by a user, each of the content items associated with a local area in which the content item was generated;

receiving a request from a user for a specific content item via the VOD platform; and  
providing the specific content item to the user via the VOD platform only when the user is in the same local area as that in which the specific content item was generated.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
independently preempting the backdrop programming for a different local area.